

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A web expander comprising means for carrying a web having longitudinal slits, means for expanding the width of the web, and opening control means for uniformly forming size and form of openings of the web expanded by said means for expanding.

2. A web expander according to claim 1, wherein said opening control means comprises a rotatable ribbed roll having a plurality of ribs formed on its circumference, the ribbed roll being adapted to be applied to one side of the web to rotate in the direction in which the web is reduced in width.

3. A web expander according to claim 2, wherein said ribbed roll has a plurality of oblique grooves made on its circumference.

4. A web expander according to claim 3, wherein said oblique grooves are spiral rib-like ridges.

5. A web expander according to claim 3, wherein said oblique grooves are inclined to be symmetric with respect to the center of the web.

6. A web expander according to claim 2, wherein said ribbed roll is curved, and is rotated while maintaining a direction of the curved condition.

7. A web expander according to claim 2, wherein said ribbed roll is straight, and is rotated.

8. A web expander according to claim 2, wherein two or more ribbed rolls are used.

9. A web expander according to claim 6, wherein two or more ribbed rolls are used.

10. A web expander according to claim 7, wherein two or more ribbed rolls are used.

11. A web expander according to claim 1, wherein said means for expanding the width of a traveling web includes a cloth guider having two rolls so as to grasp one longitudinal edge portion of the web.

12. A web expander according to claim 1, wherein said means for expanding the width of a traveling web includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of a flat expander keeping in contact with one side of the web for expansion, said flat expander having a plurality of parallel rubber strings laterally stretched, a cage roll having a plurality of coiled springs expandable laterally in the direction in which the web is expanded, a bow rubber roll, a bow rod applicator and a screw roll having a screw groove made on its cylindrical surface.

13. A web expander according to claim 1, wherein said means for expanding the width of a traveling web includes a controller for controlling the width of the web.

14. A web expander according to claim 9, wherein said means for expanding the width of a traveling web includes a controller for controlling the width of the web.

15. A web expander according to claim 10, wherein said means for expanding the width of a traveling web includes a controller for controlling the width of the web.